

Final Report

AARP Blacksburg Book Project for Vets

(10/5/2021)

of Books Collected

A total of 2150 books was collected during the period of time the Project was in operation (January 10 – May 31, 2021), around 4 ½ months. Due to COVID restrictions @ the Salem & Beckley V.A. Medical Centers, they have not accepted any book donations for several months resulting in about 1800 books being stored @ Tom Hohenshil's home. Those books will be taken to the Medical Centers as soon as their COVID restrictions are lifted.

Location of Primary Collection Center

The Blacksburg Recreation/Community Center graciously served as the primary collection center for the project by allowing a book drop box & sign to be located at the entrance of the Center. The drop box was checked at least 2 or 3 times each week.

Supporting Community Organizations

The following community organizations supported the Project through announcements to their memberships via emails & newsletters. Gaining the support of these organizations was a major key to the success of the Project.

- Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
- New River Valley Counselors Association
- Alleghany Chapter DAR
- Blacksburg Sports Club
- Blacksburg Rotary Club
- Mt. Tabor Ruritan, Blacksburg
- Blacksburg Lions Club
- Heron's Landing HOA
- Indian Run HOA
- Blacksburg Partnership
- Blacksburg Connect

Cost of Project to AARP Blacksburg Chapter

Funds to support printing sign (\$35), boxes & tape (\$100), travel expenses to collect & deliver books (approximately \$300), and member time were donated by AARP Blacksburg members. Thus, there were no costs associated with the Project that were charged to the Blacksburg Chapter.

Recommendations

1. Reduce collection period to approximately two weeks.
2. Involve community organizations again
3. Consider also involving local churches & Virginia Tech ROTC program

4. Include an AARP Blacksburg budget item to cover future expenses.

Special thanks to the many AARP Blacksburg members who supported the Project by encouraging local service organizations to support the Project, making book deliveries & collections, and donating your slightly used books. Your cooperation was very helpful and certainly appreciated.

Submitted by:
Tom Hohenshil
Project Coordinator